

REMARKS:

- 1) We have not yet received an acknowledgment of our third Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on November 14, 2002. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited references AQ, AR and AS, and to return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the Third Form PTO-1449 of November 14, 2002, together with the next official communication.
- 2) The Examiner's attention is further directed to a new fourth Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on September 17, 2003. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references AT to AZ and AA2 to AE2, and to return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the Fourth Form PTO-1449 of September 17, 2003, together with the next official communication.
- 3) Referring to the Examiner's Notice of References Cited (Form PTO-892) enclosed with the Office Action, it is noted that the U. S. Patent reference "F" (US 3,378,808) includes the indication "name not available" instead of the patentee name. The actual patentee name is "French". The Examiner is respectfully requested to correct or supplement the Form PTO-892 in the official file, to ensure that this reference is correctly identified on the front page of any patent issuing from this application.

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- 4) A few minor editorial amendments have been made in the specification and the Abstract, to clarify the affected text portions, and better adapt the original text to standard U. S. application format and practice. The amendments are all supported by the substance and the context of the original disclosure, and do not introduce any new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.
- 5) Original claims 1 to 12 have been canceled. New claims 13 to 32 have been introduced. The new claims are supported by the subject matter of the original claims and the original disclosure as shown in the following table, and do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration of the new claims is respectfully requested.

New Claims	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Original Support	Cl. 1, 3	Figs.	Cl. 2	Cl. 4	Cl. 5	Cl. 6	Cl. 8	Cl. 9	Cl. 10	Cl. 12

New Claims	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Original Support	Cl. 1, 6, 7	Cl. 8	Cl. 2	Cl. 9	Cl. 10	Cl. 12	Cl. 1, 11	Cl. 2	Cl. 6	Cl. 8

- 6) Referring to page 6 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in original claims 3, 7 and 11 is appreciated. This allowable subject matter has been incorporated into the new claims as follows.

New independent claim 13 is based on the allowable combination of original claims 1 and 3. Thus, claim 13 and its dependent claims 14 to 22 should now be allowable.


New independent claim 23 is based on the allowable combination of original claims 1, 6 and 7. Thus, claim 23 and its dependent claims 24 to 28 should now be allowable.

New independent claim 29 is based on the allowable combination of original claims 1 and 11. Thus, claim 29 and its dependent claims 30 to 32 should now be allowable.

- 7) Referring to pages 2 to 5 of the Office Action, the several prior art rejections of original claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8 to 10 and 12 have been obviated by the cancellation of the original claims, and in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into each of the new claims as discussed above. Namely, since the new independent claims 13, 23 and 29 respectively incorporate the allowable features of non-rejected claims 3, 7 and 11, the asserted prior art rejections cannot be maintained against any of the new claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.
- 8) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including new claims 13 to 32, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Applicant

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Enclosures:
Form PTO-2038,
Term Extension

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax, to (703) 872-9318 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: October 10, 2003

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